

August 16, 1962

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Dear Ivan:

I had a talk yesterday with Kingsley, who brought down your letter on the Robertson conversation. It is clear that on the basis of the time factor alone, Mamao is a dead issue. The Air Force, therefore, is withdrawing its request. You will receive a cable in regular channels to this effect shortly.

There remains the question of the NATO briefing and what we should do vis-a-vis Canada.

The next step should be for you to see Robertson and tell him that the request for the Mamao base is being withdrawn, chiefly because of the time factor, but also because of the complicated political problems it poses and that in order to meet the operational needs of the program we are selecting a site in the United States which will be less satisfactory than the Canadian site.

You should then see Bryce as soon as possible and inform him that entirely apart from the Mamao base question, we wish to brief Diefenbaker, Green and Harkness on our space operations, particularly our photographic satellite program. Secretary Rank is willing, if the Canadian Government finds it desirable, to come to Ottawa on August 24 for this purpose.

We are particularly anxious to have Bryce's views on both the mechanics of an approach by the Secretary and on the context in which the subject should be put -- what

emphasis

The Honorable
Ivan B. White,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim,
American Embassy,
Ottawa.

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-2-

TOP SECRET

emphasis to give to what aspects. There are obviously many awkward aspects to the problem. While in theory it might be best for the Secretary first to see Diefenbaker, this would probably present serious protocol problems. If these cannot be surmounted, the next best alternative would be to see Diefenbaker, Green and Barkness together. Of course, the big problem is to avoid the possibility that the Secretary would have to tell Green that his Undersecretary and some of his military colleagues had known about this project for months, and thus compromise seriously the position of some of our best friends in Canada. In any case, while we don't want to be committed to Bryce's views in any way, we will clearly give them a good deal of weight.

I suggest that you report on your conversation with Bryce personally to me via Roger Channel. You will still have to be circumspect, but we both know the subject pretty well so the channel should be adequate. Depending on your reply, the Secretary would, of course, send a suitable open communication to Green.

Kingsley can fill you in on the details of our discussion.

I'm sorry to miss the opportunity to see you and Dottie, but we'll save it for happier circumstances.

Sincerely,

U. Alexis Johnson

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